

HONORING THE LIFE OF JERRY WORKMAN

HON. FRANCISCO "QUICO" CANSECO

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 27, 2011

Mr. CANSECO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Jerry Workman. Brother Workman, as he was called by the almost 5,000 students he taught, was a beloved science teacher for over 40 years at Pecos High School in Pecos, Texas. After battling colon and abdominal cancer, Mr. Workman passed away on October 6, 2011. However, his memory will live on through the thousands of students he mentored and inspired through his love of teaching.

Jerry Samuel Workman, Sr. was born on March 7, 1940 in Angel-Flatts, Texas. Mr. Workman moved to Pecos in 1965 to pursue a job opportunity after serving in the U.S. Army and the National Guard. Unable to find the job he was seeking, he was invited to apply for an opening as a teacher at Pecos High School and teach "for a year or two." Forty-six years later, he was still teaching. Over the years Mr. Workman selflessly taught thousands of students and coached numerous UIL Science teams; drove countless miles in a school bus, and helped students find scholarships to attend college.

When Jerry Workman was diagnosed with cancer, his family set up a Facebook page to update past and present students on his health. The page called, "Jerry Workman taught me more than Chemistry," has become populated with friends, family, and former students sharing memories of Brother Workman. Jerry Workman dedicated his life to serving the youth of Pecos, Texas. His passing is a great loss to not only the community, but the entire State of Texas.

IN HONOR OF MR. HERB THOMAS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 27, 2011

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Mr. Herb Thomas, a photojournalist and news videographer for Cleveland's WJW, who is being honored by the Press Club of Cleveland with the 2011 Chuck Heaton Award.

Herb attended Thomas Edison High School in Cleveland, Ohio before joining WJW in 1969 as a set designer. Throughout the years Herb has worked in a number of capacities for the station including director of print operations, member of the studio camera crew, photojournalist and videographer. He is also responsible for creating WJW's sign off programs "Meditation" and "Celebration."

Herb is a local celebrity in Cleveland and played "Soul Man" on the Big Chuck and Little John Show for many years. He has been featured in PM Magazine, listed in the "Who's Who" in Success Magazine and named "One of Cleveland's Most Interesting People" in Cleveland Magazine. Herb is also the founder and president of thomavisions and of the performing arts choir, "Prayer Warriors."

Herb has been honored in the past as well for his quality of work and dedication to jour-

nalism. He has won 12 Emmys, two International Gabriel awards and documentary honors by the Ohio Society of Professional Journalists. Herb was also inducted in the Ohio Broadcasters Hall of Fame in 2000.

In addition to being inducted in the Cleveland Journalism Hall of Fame, Class of 2011, Herb is this year's recipient of the Chuck Heaton Award. The Chuck Heaton Award honors an individual who best exemplifies the qualities of the Plain Dealer's longtime sports writer and columnist, Chuck Heaton. Mr. Heaton was known for his dedication to journalism and community.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, please join me in congratulating WJW's Herb Thomas as the Press Club of Cleveland names him the 2011 Chuck Heaton Award recipient.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL G. GRIMM

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 27, 2011

Mr. GRIMM. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 812, I had district work that required my presence. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

HONORING MR. MAURICE VEISSI

HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 27, 2011

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Maurice "Moe" Veissi, an outstanding realtor and person who has supported the Miami community for over 40 years. Having known Moe for several years, I can attest to his exemplary character and his commitment to his profession and the people he serves.

Moe is the 2011 President-Elect of the National Association of Realtors (NAR), and broker-owner of Veissi & Associates located in Miami, FL. He served on the Strategic Investment Reserve Advisory Board for NAR, also serving as a regional vice president for Region V in 2005. Moe has served on NAR's Board of Directors since 1999, along with numerous NAR committees.

Moe was also elected president of the Florida Association of Realtors (FAR) in 2002, and in 2003 was named "Realtor of the Year". On the local level, he has served as president of the Realtor Association of Greater Miami and The Beaches, and was twice appointed to as the Economic Development Chairman. Active in his community, Moe founded the Silent Angels Charitable Foundation, has coached several youth sports teams and also volunteers for numerous organizations such as Habitat for Humanity.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to Mr. Maurice Veissi for his continued service to the Miami community. It will be great to have a model South Floridian representing such a well-respected national organization. He is an exceptional leader for the community, and I am privileged to call him my friend. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this outstanding individual.

IN HONOR OF U.S. ARMY SERGEANT FIRST CLASS HOUSTON M. TAYLOR

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 27, 2011

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the service of Army Sergeant First Class Houston M. Taylor who was killed on October 13, 2011 in Kunar Province, Afghanistan. He was working in support of Operation Enduring Freedom while serving with Delta Company, 2nd Battalion, 27th Infantry Regiment, 25th Infantry Division based at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii. Sergeant First Class Taylor was posthumously promoted to Sergeant First Class and awarded a Bronze Star and Purple Heart for his actions.

Sergeant First Class Taylor was 25 years old, attended Azle High School, in Azle, Texas, and enlisted in the Army in 2005. His first assignment was to Fort Lewis, Washington, with Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division. Sergeant First Class Taylor deployed to Iraq in 2006 and 2008 before deploying to Afghanistan in early 2011. Sergeant Taylor was killed during his third combat tour. He leaves behind his high school sweetheart and wife, Kelsey Rae Taylor, and two young children, Rylan, and Avery.

Sergeant First Class Taylor gallantly and selflessly gave his life in the service of his country when insurgents attacked his unit with small arms fire while they were on foot patrol in Afghanistan. Major Dave Eastburn, a spokesman for the brigade in which Sergeant First Class Taylor served, said Sergeant First Class Taylor "was a warrior, a great leader, and will be truly missed." This affirmation only confirms what his family and friends already knew about Sergeant First Class Taylor. His mother knew from an early age that he was destined for the service and his wife said that "he never complained about anything he had to do" in the Army.

I wish to extend my condolences to Sergeant First Class Taylor's wife, Kelsey Rae, his children, Rylan and Avery, his parents, and all of his family and friends. I hope they continue to find solace in his lasting impact on both this grateful nation and his fellow soldiers.

MAKING PROGRESS ON PAID SICK LEAVE

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 27, 2011

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to support employers and businesses that provide paid sick leave to American workers across the country. Workers should be able to take care of themselves or family members who are sick without risking losing their jobs or a day's wages. The businesses in my district have worked closely with the City of Seattle, and particularly Seattle City Councilmember Nick Licata, to be leaders on this issue. I want to commend the City of Seattle for recently adopting paid sick leave for workers, demonstrating direct support for working families